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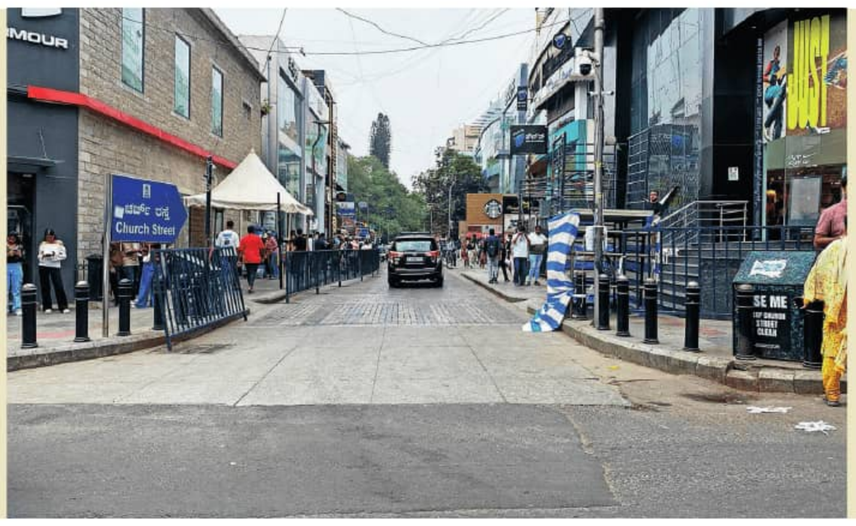
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 17 | Humidity 48% Mostly sunny Sensex 85,188 | Nifty 26,146 | Gold 1,35,690 | Silver 2,35,800 | Dollar 89.99 | Euro 105.54 | GBP 121.01

WALK IN THE SKY

Ambitious 8-km overhead skywalk proposed along ORR Metro Blue Line could transform last-mile connectivity for daily commuters

PAGE 4



AFTER PARTY

Pourakarmikas, volunteers clean up NYE bash hotspots after the party and police make sure people had fun without fear

PAGE 7

As cyber attacks grow, one report reveals city has become 6th most targeted spot in country and other report reveals how business-to-business spyware has spread its tentacles to break into large volumes of confidential and monetisable data

EVERY MOVE YOU MAKE... THEY WILL BE WATCHING YOU

Ransomware, password stealers on the prowl

Sanjana CS and Sridhar Vivan
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Two cybersecurity firms' reports on trends of 2025 have revealed interesting facts — while Bengaluru ranks sixth most targeted city for cyber attacks in the country, B2B spyware has seen an explosive 273% rise in 2025 as compared to 2024.

The India Cyber Threat Report 2026 by Seqrite places Bengaluru just behind Mumbai, New Delhi, Kolkata, Pune and Surat as a target for sustained and sophisticated cyber intrusions.

Karnataka recorded 11.64 million threat detections. The report notes that the presence of more than 65,700 IT and software units, over 2.25 lakh engineering and manufacturing establishments, and nearly 3.29 lakh educational institutions has created a dense and highly connected ecosystem, increasing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"As enterprises expand their digital footprint, attack surfaces multiply. Threat actors are exploiting gaps in endpoint security, phishing awareness and patch management to deploy spyware that can remain undetected for long periods

— Chetan Anand, cybersecurity expert

What's that noise?

High afternoon temperatures, rigid pavements at traffic intersections are aggravating noise pollution in city, study shows

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru's noisy roads are not just a result of traffic snarls and the honking menace. Even high afternoon temperatures and rigid pavements at traffic intersections are amplifying noise pollution in the city.

Researchers from BMS College of Engineering have found that elevated afternoon temperatures in Bengaluru amplify noise levels by more than 20 percent compared to morning readings. Moreover, rigid pavements at intersections in certain areas generated more noise due to vehicle vibrations, reaching a level of 80 dB(A).

"Interaction between tire and road surface is the main source of traffic noise. In the case of rigid pavements, which are mostly concrete, vehicle tyres hitting the surface lead to vibration, causing more noise. Additionally, concrete roads are also textured to increase skid resistance and safety, leading to more noise," said a city-based noise pollution expert.

Anti-noise pollution activists pinpoint that the biggest culprit is vehicular noise pollution, and to make Bengaluru quieter, the permissible maximum decibel levels should be reviewed and reduced.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 It's a magical world

Lahe Lahe Caravan is presenting 'Harry Potter Book Discussion', a meetup by Sonali Bhatia, for hard-core Potterheads aged 12 and above. The event brings a chance to enter the wizarding world and share your thoughts and insights. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: January 4, 2.30 pm**

02 Dadventures await

Jaspreet Singh will be taking the stage to talk about his wildest job yet - being a father, navigating his innate irresponsible nature to the absurdities of modern parenting, in a show about men, fatherhood, love and loss. **Where: Alliance Francaise, Vasanth Nagar; When: January 31, February 1, 8 pm**

03 Musical treat

Known for his soulful vocals and heartfelt compositions, Gajendra Verma will be performing live, bringing a night of music, emotions, and memories. **Where: Orion Mall, Rajajinagar; When: February 7, 6 pm**

04 Tales for tiny tots

Ranga Shankara returns with its signature intimate storytelling programme, Little Cloud, packed with an enchanting experience of creativity, laughter and imagination. The sessions are held for children aged 4 to 6 every Saturday and Sunday. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: January 3 to March 15, 10 am**

05 Fur real fun

Pet Fed is back with two days of pure joy for pets and pet lovers alike, bringing paw-sitivity, fun, and unforgettable experiences. **Where: KTPO, Whitefield; When: January 17, 11 am**

Home stretch for homebuyers' woes

Real estate authority's intervention to get wheels moving in completion of long-pending apartment complex project, with direction to commence construction and keep homeowners updated about progress

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA) has restrained landlords and a financial institution, along with their agents, from interfering in the commencement and progress of civil works at the Aryan Golden Arena project. The move aims to ensure timely completion of the long-delayed housing venture, offering hope to hundreds of homebuyers who have been waiting for their promised homes since 2017.

The K-RERA, in its order dated December 12, 2025, has also disposed of the complaint lodged by Aryan Golden Arena Buyers Welfare Association, as it has permitted Aryan Golden Arena (the respondent No 1) to proceed with the completion of the project.

Bangalore Mirror published a story 'Dream homes turn nightmare' on January 28, 2024, narrating how hundreds of distressed homebuyers are grappling with significant problems caused by delays in the completion of the construction of their dream homes.

K-RERA's order

The K-RERA, in its order, directed Aryan Golden Arena to commence the construction of the project within 30 days from the date of the order and obtain all necessary statutory approval and file periodic complaints accordingly. "The respondent No 1 shall disclose the progress of the project to the complainant association (Aryan Golden Arena Buyers Welfare Association). The complainant association and respondents No 5 to 14 (landowners) shall be entitled to seek information to ensure that the funds mobilised into the project and revenues generated are not diverted elsewhere, but utilised only towards completion of the project," the judgement read.

The RERA has also directed Anand Rathi Global Finance Limited to issue all necessary No Objection Certificates (NOCs) immediately to facilitate sale of units so that legitimate project revenues can flow, enabling the builder to complete the project.

144 flats are expected to be handed over to homebuyers in three to four months

Delayed construction

The project was proposed to be constructed with 811 apartment units in 11 towers under the plan sanctioned on July 15, 2017 by Member Secretaries, Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) Planning Authority. Aryan Hometec Pvt Ltd commenced the development of the said project situated at Bidaraguppe village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Launched in 2014, the project began sales the same year, assuring completion by 2017.

Rejoicing outcome of collective action, Golden Arena Buyers Welfare Association President says success of project is not just about construction of buildings, but also about hope and trust

"We could not complete the project due to the pandemic, financial problems and other hurdles. I want to thank K-RERA for permitting me to complete the project. As of now, the construction of 144 flats is in progress. I expect to handover these flats to homebuyers in three to four months. Seventy per cent of the construction of the third tower, housing 72 flats, is completed and foundation for the remaining towers is also completed," said Bharath Reddy of Aryan Hometec Pvt Ltd.

Renewed hope

Tanmoy Dev, President of Golden Arena Buyers Welfare Association, said that after years of patience, perseverance, and a long legal battle, the project is finally moving forward with renewed energy and commitment. "Together, we have demonstrated unity, strength, and determination—and it is this spirit that has carried us through every challenge to reach this milestone. Our prolonged fight in the courts was not in vain. It proved the resilience of our community and showed that when we stand together, justice and progress will follow. The success of this project is not just about constructing buildings—it is about hope, trust, and the power of collective action," said Dev.

K Venkataramana Rao, General Secretary of Golden Arena Buyers Welfare Association, said that most people have bought flats by taking bank loans along with their hard-earned money and due to the delay in the project, banks have changed the installment amount from soft loans to commercial loans. "This has made it necessary to pay double the amount. Justice has been achieved by appealing to RERA and the dream of a roof has come true," Rao said.

Mango orchards in full bloom

Mango orchards around Bengaluru are bursting into bloom, raising hopes of a good harvest this season. Farmers say the strong flowering, along with the fragrance filling the orchards, signals a promising start to the mango season that Bengaluru consumers keenly await every year. Cool morning dew and sunny days are helping flower formation, boosting confidence among growers and traders alike. However, farmers remain cautious as unseasonal rain, cold winds and cyclonic systems forming over the Bay of Bengal have upset calculations in previous years. Such conditions can blacken flowers, trigger pest attacks and reduce fruit setting. The Horticulture Department has advised timely pest and disease control sprays to protect flowers and young fruit, warning that costs can go up to Rs 3 lakh for every 10 acres through the season. Growers say if over 90 per cent of the flowers convert into healthy fruit without disease, Bengaluru consumers can look forward to good arrivals and stable prices. Any weather shock, they add, could still dent both yield and market supply. **— BMB**

KSEAB to set question papers for II PUC preparatory exams

In a first of its kind move, the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board has decided to set and supply question papers for II PUC preparatory examinations across the state, ending the long standing practice of individual colleges preparing their own papers. With the 2026 II PUC main examination approaching, the board said the uniform preparatory question papers will help students prepare better and remove confusion caused by varying standards across colleges. Until now, preparatory exams were conducted locally with subject lecturers framing papers based on the syllabus, while the board limited itself to releasing blueprints and model papers for the main exam.

An official said that the centrally prepared question papers will give students clarity on important topics, expected question patterns and the level of preparation required for the final examination. "A dedicated 'Student Corner' has also been created on the board's website with model papers and guidance material. The question papers will be prepared at the headquarters and distributed to colleges to ensure uniformity statewide, a system so far followed only for SSLC preparatory exams," said the official.

Officials said the move is expected to boost student confidence, help them assess their readiness and fine tune their preparation ahead of the II PUC main exams. **— BMB**

SSLC exam entry rule eased

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board has relaxed the requirement of submitting a copy of renewed recognition for private aided and unaided high schools to allow students to appear for the SSLC examination in the current academic year. The decision comes as relief to students after concerns were raised that pending recognition renewals could affect their exam eligibility. MLC and JD(S) leader A L Bhojegowda met Primary and Secondary Education Department Principal Secretary Rashmi Mahesh on Wednesday and sought immediate intervention. Bhojegowda said several stringent conditions linked to school recognition renewal were under review and the Education Minister had responded positively, even forming a sub-committee to ease the norms. Following the discussion, Rashmi Mahesh directed the examination board to withdraw the earlier order, ensuring that students are not denied the opportunity to write the SSLC exam due to procedural delays. **— BMB**

ED freezes ₹192 crore after operation against WinZO

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office, conducted a search operation at the office of an accounting firm linked to WinZO Pvt. Ltd. on December 30 under Section 17 of the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. WinZO operates a popular online real-money gaming app, WinZO. The company earned around Rs. 802 crore through these practices.

During the operation, the ED froze assets worth around Rs. 192 crore belonging to ZO Games Pvt. Ltd., WinZO's fully owned Indian subsidiary. The freeze covers bank balances, fixed deposits, and mutual funds under Section 17(1A) of PMLA.

The ED had carried out search and seizure operations at WinZO's offices and the residential premises of its director on November 18. Investigations revealed that the company allegedly misled users into playing games against BOTs/AI algorithms without disclosure and restricted withdrawals from user wallets. The company reportedly earned approximately Rs. 802 crore between April 2022 and August 2025 through such practices, including rake commissions from BOT-based games.

The probe also found that part of the proceeds was transferred abroad under the guise of overseas investments, with USD 54 million parked in a shell company in the USA. **BMB**

5 pedestrians injured in drunk driving incident

Five pedestrians, including a minor girl, sustained serious injuries on New Year's Eve after a drunk driver rammed his SUV into people at Yelahanka–Sahakara Nagar.

The Sanjay Nagar traffic police said the incident occurred around 10.15 pm near Gate No. 3 at the rear of a mall, where personnel were deployed to manage traffic amid New Year celebrations. According to police officials, advocate Sunil Kumar Singh (48), sped out of the mall premises and lost control of the SUV.

The vehicle first hit iron barricades installed along the footpath before crashing into the people walking nearby. The injured have been identified as Akamma (30), Chandrashekar (36), Rajalakshmi (53), Prajwal Shashidhar Chavadi (27), and a minor girl. All were rushed to Manipal Hospital with assistance from bystanders and police.

Police described the accident as a result of rash and negligent driving. The complaint also highlights lapses by the mall management in ensuring crowd safety during the celebrations. A case has been registered against Singh and the mall authorities. **BMB**

17-year-old ends life, after parents' separation

A 17-year-old girl allegedly ended her life at her home in Chennammanakere Achukattu on Wednesday afternoon, citing emotional distress caused by her parents' separation, lack of parental affection and academic stress.

The deceased has been identified as Lekhna, a Class 10 student. According to police, Lekhna had been staying at home and had not been attending school regularly.

Her mother, who works at a supermarket, had recently moved along with Lekhna away from her father to a rented house in Manjunath Nagar around 15–20 days ago, following family disputes.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Lekhna felt emotionally neglected and deeply distressed by the separation.

In a death note, she reportedly wrote that she had not received love and affection from either parent and felt lonely, taking full responsibility for her decision. **BMB**

Suicide & attempted suicide

A twist has emerged in the case of suicide of a woman, who had reportedly faced dowry harassment, after the man ended his life and his family filed a complaint against nine members of the woman's family, claiming defamation.

According to the complaint, Sooraj and Ganavi were on their honeymoon in Sri Lanka on November 17 when Ganavi reportedly confessed to Sooraj that she was in love with another man. The couple returned on November 21 and Ganavi died by suicide on November 24. Her family alleged dowry harrassment. The man's family has filed a complaint stating that she was never asked for dowry, and alleged that Ganavi's family made false media statements to defame the family. **BMB**

Auto driver stabbed to death outside home

A man was stabbed to death around 12.19 am on Thursday in KP Agrahara. The deceased, Rechanna (36), was an auto driver and lived with his mother, Gouramma, near Nalkamba Circle. According to the complainant, Rechanna was attacked by an unknown assailant outside his residence.

Police said Rechanna allegedly went out of the house around 11.40 pm, the miscreants stabbed him and fled. The victim had sustained stab wounds to the upper left chest and left back, resulting in his death at the scene. The motive is suspected to be personal in nature.

According to the complaint filed by his relative, Girish S., who often visited Rechanna's house, he received a call from his friend Chandrashekhar, also known as Chandru, informing him that Rechanna had been stabbed and killed outside his home.

Meanwhile, a cab driver was assaulted by a group of intoxicated men near Corporation Circle. The incident occurred around 3.15 am.

According to sources, the trouble began when the cab, navigating the busy road, was grazed by the youths. When the driver questioned them about the minor damage, the group allegedly responded with abusive language. The situation quickly escalated, with over ten youths reportedly attacking the driver. Other motorists who attempted to intervene were also targeted, creating chaos on the road.

Police officials confirmed about the video that went viral,and stated that no complaints have been reported regarding the incident.

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Elevated walkway planned for techbelt

Proposed ORR skywalk will connect metro stations directly to IT parks and residential complexes, providing safe, seamless, weather-protected, stress-free pedestrian travel for commuters

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

If implemented, an ambitious 8-km overhead skywalk proposed along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) Metro Blue Line could significantly transform last-mile connectivity for thousands of daily commuters, particularly those working in IT parks and living in large apartment clusters along the corridor.

As per the inter-station walkway proposal, additional pillars have already been provisioned beneath the elevated metro tracks for nearly 8 km — a unique, forward-looking design intervention. However, while the structural provision exists, the Mahadevpura Task Force (MTF) has revealed that BMRCL will not fund the skywalk, and that the project is being explored through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model or with support from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). In this regard, Mahadevapura MLA Manjula Limbavali has written to the GBA seeking funding support for this major pedestrian infrastructure project.

The proposal gains significance given that there is roughly one metro station every kilometre on the ORR Blue Line. Currently, commuters are expected to descend at stations and cross wide, traffic-heavy and unsafe junctions to reach nearby IT parks or residential complexes. The proposed skywalk aims to eliminate this risk entirely.

According to the concept drawings and schematic plan, the inter-station skywalk is designed as a 2.5-metre-wide continuous pedestrian corridor, running parallel to the metro viaduct at concourse level.

ORR inter-station skywalk designed for stress-free pedestrian movement

The walkway is supported by regularly spaced structural bays (with a typical span of approximately 28 metres) and integrates with metro pillars without interfering with rail operations. The design includes protective railings, barrier segregation and overhead covering, ensuring safety and weather protection for pedestrians.

Crucially, the skywalk is not limited to station-to-station movement. Where major IT parks, tech campuses or large apartment complexes exist along the alignment, the walkway can "land" directly into these premises through dedicated access points. This would allow metro commuters to walk straight from the platform to their workplace or home without stepping onto the ORR at all, avoiding traffic congestion, signal delays and accident-prone crossings.

Clement Jayakumar from the MTF pointed out that such a system could dramatically improve walkability, encourage higher metro usage and reduce dependence on feeder autos and private vehicles for short distances. For a corridor that employs tens of thousands of people daily, the skywalk could redefine last-mile travel as safe, seamless and stress-free. The skywalk would connect all stations from Iblur Metro station to Saraswathi Nagar Metro station in Mahadevapura, with interruptions only at the Marathahalli underpass and the Doddanekundi railway line.

If funding hurdles are addressed, the ORR skywalk could set a new benchmark for pedestrian-first metro infrastructure in the country.

The proposed 8-km inter-station skywalk includes protective railings, overhead coverage, and direct access into IT parks. Funding may involve PPP models or Greater Bengaluru Authority support, promising safer, stress-free travel while boosting walkability and metro usage along the corridor

In her letter to the GBA, the MLA has also flagged a broader set of demands to improve the ORR commuter experience, including the construction of a composite girder bridge near the Doddanekundi railway underpass to ease congestion, enhanced street lighting to eliminate dark spots, improved bus shelters, and steps to reduce illegal parking and footpath encroachments.

Other recommendations include improving pedestrian experience, greening of medians through PPP models, creating two-wheeler parking beneath flyovers for metro commuters, street cleaning through mechanised sweeping, and targeted interventions to address known traffic bottlenecks through junction improvements.

343 acres reclaimed from encroachers

The Revenue Department has reclaimed 343 acres of government land in Bengaluru Urban district by removing illegal encroachments under a focused drive led by tahsildars. Officials said each tahsildar was instructed to identify encroachments in their jurisdiction and carry out clearance operations at least one day every week. As of December 20, land valued at about ₹1,803 crore had been recovered, with Bengaluru North taluk contributing the largest share at 99 acres, making it the most significant recovery recorded in the district during the current enforcement exercise. — BMB

Assistant Comissioner Courts go live

In a move to make revenue courts more citizen-friendly and improve transparency in quasi-judicial decisions, the State government has begun live-streaming Assistant Commissioner court proceedings on a pilot basis in Bengaluru. The system, now operational in select AC courts in the Bengaluru division, will be extended across Karnataka within two to three months. The initiative follows cases where AC courts were found to have exceeded their jurisdiction due to the lack of clear procedural norms. Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda said live-streaming would bring discipline, accountability and transparency to hearings, while dispelling allegations of irregularities. He added that digitisation of orders and online case management are under way, and that the system will allow litigants to attend hearings, reducing visits. — BMB

BESCOM app tracks transformers

To ensure high-quality and uninterrupted power supply, BESCOM has developed a Distribution Transformer Life Cycle Management System app to monitor and maintain over five lakh power transformers across its eight-district jurisdiction. The app enables officials to track transformer operations, preventive maintenance, repairs and efficiency, while recording all maintenance activities digitally.

'A dedicated Distribution Transformer Centre management module under the system is expected to significantly improve the efficiency, reliability and continuity of the power distribution network by enabling quarterly maintenance and early detection of faults,' an official said. Field officers are required to upload before-and-after photographs of maintenance work, helping ensure proper upkeep, removal of debris around transformers and overall safety. BESCOM said the data-driven system will aid better decision-making, reduce downtime, extend transformer life and optimise resources. Energy Minister KJ George said the app-based monitoring of preventive maintenance for nearly 88 per cent of transformers in the BESCOM area would help deliver reliable, high-quality power to consumers. — BMB

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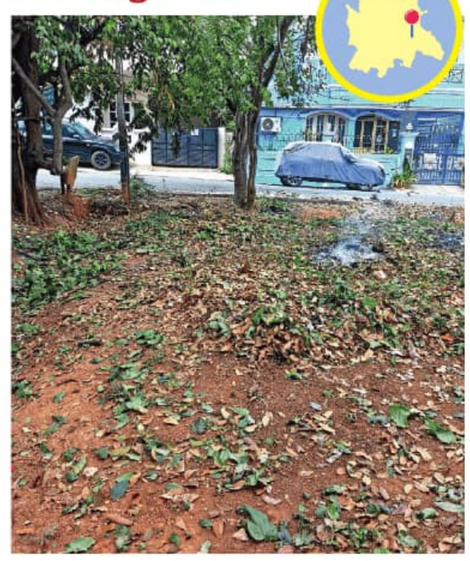
Pipeline collapse

Yelahanka

A road caved in after a Cauvery water pipeline burst during testing, exposing poor-quality work and zero accountability on the part of civic engineers Bengaluru.

Swift action

Hesaraghatta



Following a photograph published in these columns, civic officials immediately cleared the debris from a fallen tree on 10B Main Road, AGB Layout, Hesaraghatta Main Road.

Civic neglect

RT Nagar

For over six months, civic apathy has continued as issues remain unattended opposite the Ganesha Temple, Taralabalu Marg, Second Block, P&T Colony, RT Nagar, Bengaluru.

IN HIGH COURT

‘Misleading’ property dispute proves costly

The Karnataka High Court has dismissed a series of writ petitions filed by members of the same family in a long-running land dispute, holding that the litigation was driven by misleading claims and an abuse of the judicial process. The court imposed costs of Rs 1 lakh on each petitioner, observing that the proceedings were initiated to unlawfully gain control over disputed property.

Justice Rajesh Rai K, while delivering the judgment, noted that the petitioners had repeatedly approached different forums with inconsistent and untenable claims regarding their alleged rights over agricultural land. The court found that the litigation was not only devoid of merit but also founded on distorted facts and questionable documentation.

The dispute arose from applications filed by the petitioners seeking occupancy rights under the Karnataka Land Reforms Act. They claimed to be cultivating tenants

and sought regularisation of their possession by filing applications under the relevant statutory provisions.

While examining the record, the High Court found several assertions made by the petitioners to be inherently improbable. In one instance, a petitioner claimed to have been cultivating the land since the early 1970s, despite being a minor at the relevant time. The court held that such claims lacked credibility and were unsupported by evidence.

The court also rejected the contention that tenancy could be inferred merely because the alleged landlord was a close family member. It clarified that a familial relationship, by itself, does not establish a landlord-tenant arrangement in the absence of clear and convincing proof.

Additionally, the court took note of expert opinions suggesting that some of the documents relied upon by the petitioners were fabricated. It was further observed that the petitioners had taken contradictory positions before different forums—asserting tenancy rights under land reform laws on one hand, while claiming adverse possession in civil proceedings on the other.

Concluding that the petitions were filed with mala fide intent and amounted to misuse of court proceedings, the High Court dismissed all the writ petitions. To deter similar conduct, the court directed each petitioner to pay costs of Rs 1 lakh, to be deposited with the Karnataka Legal Services Authority within a stipulated period. **–BMB**

Repeated cross-examinations seen as delay in justice

The Karnataka High Court has cautioned trial courts against granting repeated and prolonged opportunities to accused persons to cross-examine witnesses, observing that such indulgence can unnecessarily delay criminal proceedings.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum made the observation while dismissing a petition challenging a trial court order that refused to reopen the stage of cross-examination. The court noted that while cross-examination is a vital component of a fair trial, it cannot be used as a tactic to stall the judicial process indefinitely.

The case involved a retired school teacher from Vijayapura who was facing criminal charges arising from an incident in December 2020. He was accused, along with another person, of obstructing a junior engineer from discharging official duties while attempting to collect arrears of an electricity bill. The charges included assault, intimidation, and obstruction of a public servant.

Court records showed that the complainant’s examination-in-chief was completed in November 2022. However, despite being granted several opportunities over a lengthy period, the accused failed to conduct cross-examination. After nearly three years of delay, the trial court declined his application filed under Section 311 of the Code of Criminal Procedure seeking another chance to cross-examine the witness.

Upholding the trial court’s decision, the High Court observed that procedural fairness must be balanced with the need for timely justice. The judge emphasised that the right to defend oneself cannot override the rights of the complainant or undermine the efficiency of the justice delivery system.

The court concluded that trial judges are justified in closing the opportunity for cross-examination when it is clear that repeated chances are being misused, reaffirming that the criminal justice process should not be allowed to be derailed by avoidable delays. **–BMB**

Bus travel made safer

The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has said it has taken multiple measures to enhance the safety of women and children on city buses, including installing panic buttons and strengthening child rights protection mechanisms. Responding to a query from the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights on the implementation of the revised Karnataka State Child Protection Policy, 2016, and the POCSO Act, 2012, BMTC said an SOS or panic button has been integrated into the ‘Namma BMTC’ app.

In the event of any untoward incident, women and children can trigger the alert, following which the corporation’s Sarathi vehicle will rush to the spot, while coordination with the 112 emergency services ensures immediate police assistance. **–BMB**

RTO lapse costs state crores

The Transport Department has estimated a loss of ₹5.42 crore in road tax to the State due to fraudulent registration of private service vehicles and cabs by under-reporting floor area. The department has decided to recover the amount from the officials responsible and has entrusted the probe to the Bengaluru Division Joint Commissioner. An audit by the State Accounts and Audit Department found that at the Electronics City RTO, several vehicles with higher seating capacity were wrongly registered as 12-plus-one-seat maxi cabs, leading to lower tax collection, in violation of the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Act.

An official said, “A committee headed by the Bengaluru City Joint Commissioner has been formed to examine the case.” **–BMB**

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Some tips & some musings: Rashmika celebrates industry milestone

BM Retail & Shopping

Siddaramaiah set to become Karnataka's longest-serving Chief Minister in history

On January 7, Siddaramaiah will overtake Devaraj Urs, marking an unprecedented cumulative tenure in Karnataka's turbulent political history

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Crossing seven years in office across two terms, Siddaramaiah's milestone underscores rare political longevity in Karnataka, his AHINDA-backed rise, and statewide celebrations planned as supporters mark a defining moment

Amid continuing discussions over power sharing and administration, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is set to script a major political milestone. In just a week, he will become Karnataka's longest-serving Chief Minister, surpassing the record held by Devaraj Urs. Urs had served for 7 years and 239 days, a benchmark Siddaramaiah set to cross on January 7. Having completed a full five-year term earlier and now finishing 2.5 of his second stint, Siddaramaiah's cumulative tenure will stand at 7 years and 240 days, placing him at the top of the list in the state's political history.

The achievement places Siddaramaiah in a rare bracket in Karnataka politics, where political instability, coalition pressures and frequent leadership changes have often prevented long tenures. Sources point out that only five Chief Ministers in the state's history have managed to remain in office for more than five years. While leaders in several other states have governed for decades across multiple terms, such continuity has remained uncommon in Karnataka's political landscape.

Siddaramaiah first assumed office as Chief Minister in 2013 and returned to power in May 2023, giving him two non-consecutive stints that together define his record-breaking tenure. His political career began in the Lok Dal, followed by a long association with the Janata Dal, where he won elections and served as Deputy Chief Minister. He joined the Congress in 2006, later emerging as a strong Leader of the Opposition before leading the party back to power.

The tenure chart reflects the significance of the milestone. Devaraj Urs held office for 7 years and 239 days, followed by S Nijalingappa with 7 years and 175 days. Ramakrishna Hegde served for 5 years and 216 days, while B S Yediyurappa completed 5 years and 82 days in office.

Siddaramaiah's rise has been closely linked to the AHINDA social coalition, which helped him build a broad support base cutting across regions and communities. His policies and political positioning have also found steady backing in Bengaluru.

Supporters are planning events across the state to mark the occasion, including community conventions, public outreach programmes and temple prayers, underlining the political significance of the milestone.

Bengaluru's only thermocol, mattress waste centre opens in Koramangala

New thermocol and mattress processing centre boosts capacity, curbs drain clogging, and sets a sustainable waste management benchmark for Bengaluru

| Iffath.Fathima@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Upgraded facility compacts discarded thermocol into polystyrene lumps, later recycled into everyday products like pens, buttons, and photo frames

As Bengaluru struggles with growing volumes of dry waste and recurring incidents of clogged stormwater drains, Koramangala has started the New Year on a hopeful note. A newly upgraded Thermocol and mattress processing centre has been inaugurated today in the neighbourhood, offering a higher capacity solution to two of the city's most problematic waste streams and marking a significant step towards more sustainable urban waste management.

Widely used for packaging electronics, appliances and food items, thermocol is lightweight but extremely voluminous, making it expensive and inconvenient to collect and transport. While the material is recyclable in theory, the lack of processing facilities has meant that most discarded thermocol ends up in landfills, is burnt, or finds its way into stormwater drains and lakes, worsening flooding and pollution.

The facility, located in Koramangala, is currently the only centre in Bengaluru dedicated exclusively to processing thermocol and mattresses—two waste streams that are often dumped in open spaces or drains due to the absence of scientific disposal options. With the upgrade, the centre can now process around one tonne of waste a day, addressing a long-standing gap in the city's waste management system. The project was funded through MLA grants by MLA Ramalinga Reddy, bringing relief to both residents and environmental groups.

Earlier, thermocol waste was handled in a small, makeshift shed that lacked basic infrastructure. "It was unscientific and inefficient, with limited capacity," said Padmashree Balaram, a sustainability expert and Koramangala resident. "The new, spacious shed allows safer and more efficient operations." She explained that thermocol is fed into a processing unit and compacted into polystyrene lumps, which are then sold to authorised recyclers who convert them into everyday products such as buttons, photo frames, pens and decorative items.

The centre also processes discarded mattresses, another difficult waste category. Cotton and coir are separated and sent to recyclers, where they are repurposed into floor mats, coir ropes and foot rugs, ensuring minimal waste reaches landfills. Part of Koramangala's Dry Waste Collection Centre, the facility is expected to encourage residents to channel more thermocol waste for proper processing, setting a model for other neighbourhoods to follow.

Evicted Kogilu shed dwellers face tough scrutiny

Applications from 250 to 350 people displaced after the removal of illegal sheds near Kogilu in Yelahanka have been received, with authorities now carrying out detailed document verification.

Acting on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's directions, a multi-department committee is scrutinising claims from 167 identified shed dwellers, examining Aadhaar, voter ID, ration cards and electricity bills.

Officials, however, indicated that if eligibility norms are applied strictly, only around 20 families may ultimately qualify for alternative housing. During verification, several inconsistencies were flagged, including allegations that some residents procured voter IDs by paying bribes to local officials.

Vehicles bearing registration numbers from Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal were also found in the area, raising doubts over claims of long-term local residency. Applicants have been categorised as Kannada-speaking and non-Kannada-speaking.

A consolidated report will be submitted to the state government after consultations, following which a final decision on housing allotment will be taken. **BMB**

'Honour killing shows society still unchanged'

Commenting on the recent honour killing reported from Hubballi, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said that beyond laws, sustained social awareness is essential to prevent such crimes.

Speaking to the media in Bengaluru on Thursday, Parameshwara said society must change its mindset. "We are living in a modern world. Inter-caste marriages are not new. Even hundreds of years ago, Basavanna encouraged such marriages. Yet incidents like these show society is not receiving the right message," he said, adding that awareness was as important as legal action. He assured that the investigation and legal procedures in the case would be completed at the earliest.

Parameshwara said he visited Hubballi on Wednesday and met the victim's family. "The victim's mother is in critical condition and remains hospitalised. I visited her as well," he said. On the Dharmasthala case and other matters handed over to the CID, the minister said procedures would be completed as per law.

Meanwhile, Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa visited Inamveerapura village near Hubballi and consoled the family of Vivekananda Doddamani, whose pregnant wife was hacked to death by her father over an inter-caste marriage. He handed over a cheque for 17 lakh to the family. **IANS**

NYE party went off well...

Nearly 8.3 lakh QR codes issued by police accessed by public, providing real-time updates, safety advisories, traffic restrictions, awareness videos

Revellers light up the streets with fireworks and glowing accessories as police ensure smooth New Year celebrations

Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

As the clock struck midnight, Bengaluru welcomed New Year 2026 with vibrant celebrations as nearly ten lakh people gathered across the city on Wednesday night. After many years, the festivities passed off smoothly, backed by meticulous planning, with no major incidents and no lathi charge.

For the first time, the Bengaluru City Police rolled out a QR code–based information system. Nearly 8.3 lakh QR codes issued by police officials were accessed by the public, providing real-time updates, safety advisories, traffic restrictions and awareness videos at high-footfall locations.

Revellers thronged MG Road, Brigade Road and the Mayo Hall area, celebrating under a sky lit up by colourful fireworks. People of all ages — families, couples and groups of friends — filled the streets, with party horns and glowing accessories adding to the festive mood.

According to the City Police Commissioner, lessons from past years helped ensure better planning and execution. "We prepared early and checked all arrangements in advance. We could not afford to repeat earlier mistakes," the Commissioner said. Nearly seven lakh people accessed the QR codes in the days leading up to the celebrations, with the figure rising to about 8.3 lakh after midnight.

Security systems

Security arrangements were significantly scaled up compared with last year. Entry points were under tight surveillance, bags were prohibited in party zones, and extensive barricading was put in place. In the Central Business District, including MG Road and Brigade Road, vehicular movement was restricted and one-way pedestrian systems were enforced to manage crowds.

Over 20,000 police personnel were deployed across the city, supported by Quick Response Teams (QRTs) and Channamapade units. Home Minister Dr G. Parameshwara visited the Command Control Centre at the Bengaluru Police Commissioner's office during the New Year celebrations.

Speaking to the media, Dr Parameshwara said the celebrations remained peaceful despite larger-than-expected crowds. He credited advance planning and coordination for the absence of major incidents, traffic congestion, accidents or loss of life, particularly in high-density areas such as MG Road and Brigade Road.

After the party, the clean-up

Group of pourakarmikas and volunteers clear over 10 tonnes of garbage left after year-end celebrations

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

For around 110 pourakarmikas and a handful of volunteers, the New Year began with the task of clearing garbage left behind on MG Road, Brigade Road, Church Street and surrounding areas.

Thirty dedicated pourakarmikas, under the supervision of the Assistant General Manager of Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) and marshals, began clearing waste in the early hours of January 1, 2026. This year's cleaning effort stood out for its use of a pressure water-jetting machine, leaving footpaths spotless after the revelry.

The second batch of pourakarmikas joined the cleaning operation at 5.30 am. "The second batch, consisting of 80 pourakarmikas, began clearing waste at 5.30 am. We managed to keep MG Road, Church Street, Brigade Road and surrounding areas clean. There was no footwear on the footpaths or roads, but a lot of leftover food, paper cups, plates and huge quantities of empty liquor bottles were found. More than 10 tonnes of waste were cleared from these roads," said BSWML Assistant General Manager Appuraj.

KAUSHIK JN

Pourakarmikas in action: Clearing 10 tonnes of litter from MG and Brigade Road

The AGM said the waste was cleared as per the directions of Shantinagar MLA NA Haris, Bengaluru Central City Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan and BSWML Deputy General Manager Bhimesh Nayak. "I want to thank our DGM for facilitating the pressure water-jetting machine. We are planning to clean footpaths on Brigade Road, Church Street and MG Road once a week using the machine, if higher authorities allow us," he said, adding that barricades put up by the traffic police have been helpful in avoiding incidents.

It was stated that around 10 auto-tippers and one garbage compactor truck were used to clear the waste.

This year, the Indian Ploggers Army launched 'Pl'ance' (Pick Litter over Dance), a fresh approach to community cleanliness. "We were proud to support the GBA and their team of more than 25 pourakarmikas, who began their clean-up efforts at 3 am. To show our appreciation for their fourth year of consistent service, our team organised a celebratory 'plance' session. We successfully cleared eight sacks of garbage from roadside corners, combining environmental action with the joy of dance to start the year with purpose," said Plog Raja of the Indian Ploggers Army.

"Celebration doesn't mean littering in public, and it doesn't mean being under the influence. Let Bengaluru become free from mindless littering, drinking and drugs," said volunteer Sweta Ranga Swamy.

DRUNK DIARIES

Revellers run riot

Pubs across Bengaluru witnessed heavy footfall as New Year offers drew large crowds, but were shut by 1 am. Police assisted intoxicated revellers by arranging auto-rickshaws to ensure they reached home safely. For the first time, buses and tempo travellers were stationed at key locations to clear crowds after midnight.

A brief scuffle was reported at a Church Street pub in the early hours of January 1 after intoxicated youths allegedly misbehaved with women staff members. The pub staff intervened promptly and brought the situation under control.

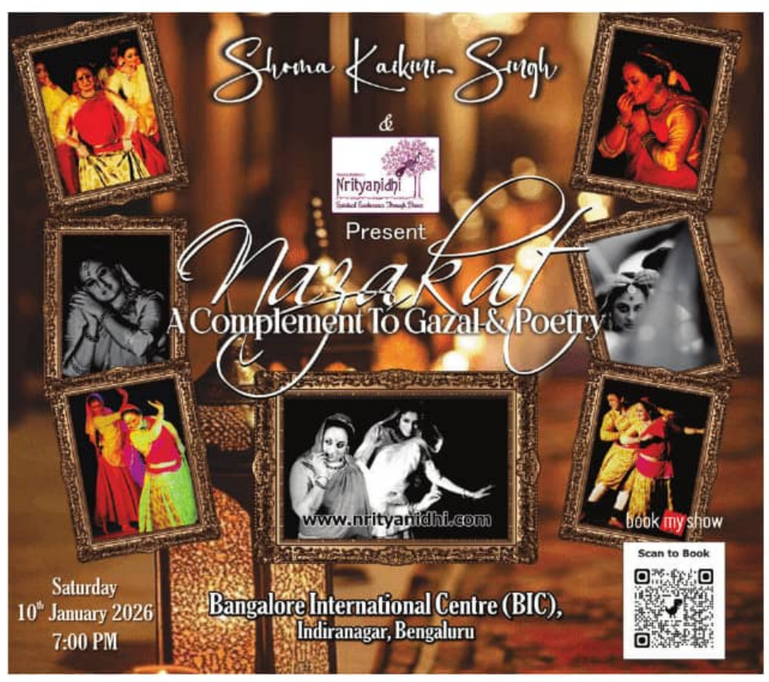
To manage post-celebration crowds, police set up 15 rest centres across the city, where intoxicated revellers were kept safe until they sobered up and were later sent home. **–BMB**

A job well done

Ramamurthy Nagar Police rescued a drunk man who fell into an open well on Wednesday night while celebrating the New Year. The incident involved 27-year-old Rohith, an orphan, who allegedly tried to imitate Kamal Haasan's feat in Sagara Sangamam, where the character, intoxicated, dances on the edge of a well. Had the police not arrived in time, Rohith could have drowned or become trapped in the slush of the abandoned well.

Police on patrol near KR Puram Railway Station received information about the accident and rushed to the scene. Head Constable Syed Anis Pasha said, "A boy from a nearby slum, who works at a tea stall and is known to me, informed me about Rohith. I alerted my senior officers and rushed to the well. With help from locals and a rope carried in our vehicle by our Police Inspector, we managed to rescue him."

Sub-Inspector Mohammed Ali Imran told Bangalore Mirror that the well was around 60 ft deep. "Police Inspector Satish and other constables arrived promptly. We provided first aid to Rohith, who had injuries to his leg and neck. He is an orphan and was under the care of his aunt and uncle. We also gave them some money for his medical treatment," he said. **–BMB**



273% rise in B2B spyware cases as compared to 2024

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

vulnerability across networks.

Corporate risks

Meanwhile, 'India's Evolving Threat Landscape Report, 2025', released by cybersecurity firm Kaspersky, reflects a growing focus by threat actors on corporate data, employee credentials and sensitive business communications.

According to the report, B2B spyware experienced an explosive 273% increase jumping from 58,578 to 218,479 detecations. Business-to-business spyware is software that secretly gets installed on computers to spy on users.

It collects information by tracking keystrokes and taking screenshots, often without the user knowing. Unlike other harmful software, spyware usually doesn't damage the system, but quietly watches what's happening.

The report points out that spyware malicious software designed to secretly monitor user activity and exfiltrate information has increasingly shifted from individual users to enterprise environments. "The rise in B2B spyware detections suggests that attackers are prioritising businesses, viewing them as high-value targets with access to large volumes of confidential and monetisable data," Chetan Anand, National Cyber Security Scholar and Cybercrime Intervention Officer.

"Such software is commonly used to secretly steal sensitive business information through corporate spying and targeted cyberattacks. It is illegal and unethical practice involves accessing a competitor's confidential data such as trade secrets, research, financial records, intellectual property, login credentials, or client information, or business strategies to gain an unfair advantage, often through hacking, infiltration, or social engineering. The threat has increased sharply in recent years," he said.

Other malwares

Apart from spyware, the report identifies three other key malware trends shaping India's cyber threat landscape in 2025. These include a rise in password stealers, nearly 17.7% increase from 94,571 to 111,281 incidents in India. Meanwhile, web-based threats have continued to rise steadily, with attacks increasing by 13.7 per cent from 2.02 million to 2.3 million. "Ransomware remains one of the most common cyberattacks targeting the commercial sector," Chetan Anand said.

Data shows that 0.28 per cent of users were affected by ransomware in 2025, a slight drop from 0.32 per cent in 2024. In such attacks, cybercriminals encrypt or block access to a victim's data and then demand money to restore it. These attacks are often carried out through phishing emails or infected downloads, to extort money from victims.

Experts note that the surge in B2B spyware is closely linked to India's rapid digital transformation, widespread adoption of cloud services, remote working models and increased reliance on third-party vendors.

"As enterprises expand their digital footprint, attack surfaces multiply. Threat actors are exploiting gaps in endpoint security, phishing awareness and patch management to deploy spyware that can remain undetected for long periods," the Chetan Anand, added.

Cybersecurity professionals have cautioned that the consequences for businesses can be severe, ranging from data breaches and financial losses to regulatory penalties and reputational damage. "Spyware is particularly dangerous because it operates silently. By the time organisations detect it, sensitive information may already have been leaked or sold on the dark web," he said.

"Spyware is increasingly targeting corporate India because that's where the data goldmine lies, sensitive deals, financial flows, and intellectual property. India today is home to global multinationals, a flourishing startup scene, and an ever-expanding fintech sector. This mix creates a treasure trove of valuable data that attackers want to capture, whether for profit, surveillance, or competitive advantage," explains Jaydeep Singh, General Manager for India at Kaspersky.

Focus on Bengaluru

Bengaluru's standing as a global technology hub with thousands of IT firms, startups and R&D centres makes it a high-value target for cyber criminals. Seqrite's analysis points out that widespread cloud adoption, remote work models and constant data exchange have expanded the city's attack surface, exposing enterprises to advanced and persistent threats.

While Mumbai remains the most targeted due to its concentration of financial services and enterprise networks, and New Delhi faces sustained attacks on government and public infrastructure, Bengaluru's risk profile is shaped by its role as the backbone of India's digital economy.

Kolkata and Pune continue to attract intrusions linked to public-sector systems and research-driven industries, while Surat's SME-heavy manufacturing base has increased automated attack volumes.

Data shows that 0.28 per cent of users were affected by ransomware in 2025, a slight drop from 0.32 per cent in 2024. In such attacks, cybercriminals encrypt or block access to a victim's data and then demand money to restore it. These attacks are often carried out through phishing emails or infected downloads, to extort money from victims

Education Impact

Across India, education and training institutions emerged as the most targeted sector, recording 4.92 million cyber threat detections, or 18.45 per cent of the total. Attackers exploited unpatched systems, shared Wi-Fi networks and weak research infrastructure, a major concern for Bengaluru, which hosts a dense concentration of universities, private colleges and research centres handling high-value academic and personal data. Healthcare and pharmaceutical organisations followed with 3.79 million detections, driven largely by attempts to access patient records, hospital systems and research data.

Engineering and manufacturing sectors also saw a sharp rise in attacks, particularly through compromised design tools and phishing campaigns. Government networks faced 2.88 million detections, mainly from espionage-linked campaigns and ransomware. Meanwhile, the IT and software sector recorded 2.76 million detections, with a shift towards fileless and supply-chain attacks targeting developer endpoints. Seqrite also flagged evolving tactics such as fake CAPTCHA lures and stealthy Linux backdoors.

Cyber frauds have not only drained individuals' personal bank accounts but have also targeted into a threat to businesses.

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I Rohit Wansagar R/o HOUSE NO 5 BLOOMINGDALE LAYOUT OPPOSITE AJ HOMES, KASAVANAHALLI, Bengaluru, 560035, Karnataka, INDIA have changed my name to Rohit Marotirao Wansagar for all purposes.

I Sowkath Pasha S/O, Mohameed Pheer R/o No 23, Issac Sab Street J C Nagar Bangalore - 560 006 have changed my name to Shoukath Pasha.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RAMYA KRISHNA.P.K** W/o KAUSHIK.P.R , Resident of Thyagaraja Colony, Mulbagal Town, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar Dist. I have corrected my name from **RAMYA KRISHNA PINDUKUR KAUSHIK** to **RAMYA KRISHNA PINDIKURU KAUSHIK** for all purposes. Sworn before **K S Munikrishna**, Advocate & Notary, Mulbagal Vide affidavit Dated: 04/12/2025

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **K.R ARUN KUMAR** S/o K.N RAJAIAH SETTY, Resident of Thyagaraja Colony, Mulbagal Town, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar Dist. I have corrected my name from ARUN **KUMAR KANUMAKULA RAJAIAH SETTY** to **ARUN KUMAR KANNUMUKKULA RAJAIAH SETTY** for all purposes. Sworn before **K S Munikrishna**, Advocate & Notary, Mulbagal vide affidavit Dated: 04/12/2025

I, SAJEEDA BEGUM residing at # 53, Slaughter House Road "F" Street, Shivaji Nagar, Bangalore-51, I, have changed my name to SAJIDA BEGUM my date of birth 20/02/1958 Vide affidavit dated 31.12.2025 before Notary: N.Narayana Swamy, Bangalore.

I, BANI GHOSH DOSTIDAR, R/at No. S.V. Pleasanta Flat No.2408, Sarjapura Main Road Chambenahalli Bus Stop, Chambenahalli Chambenahalli Bengaluru-562125, have changed my name to BANI GHOSH DASTIDAR, vide affidavit dt: 31/12/2025 before Notary K.V.Mani Bengaluru

I, SUHAIL KHAN. S, Residing at No 330, Maangalya Signature, Royal Park, Residency Layout 1, JP Nagar 9th Phase, Bangalore-560108, Have changed my name to SUHAIL KHAN vide affidavit dated 01/01/2026 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, Vikash Kumar, residing in Prithvi Layout, Bengaluru, declare that my daughter's name has been changed from "Srishti Singh" to "Shanaya Singh". Henceforth, she shall be known as "Shanaya Singh" for all purposes.

I, Abdul Shammi Durrani, S/o Abdul Jalil Khan, R/o 3701, PMC, Yelahanka, have changed my name to Durrani Abdulshami Abdul Jalil Khan.

GENERAL

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Review, reduce permissible maximum decibel levels, say experts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Moreover, strict directions should be issued for the implementation of relevant rules. A sufficient number of calibrated decibel meters should also be provided to the enforcing authorities. "We have written to the Union Minister for road transport and highways, requesting to review permitted maximum decibel levels to lower them. Moreover, punitive action against manufacturers of non-compliant horns is also important. We have also requested the union minister to consider the provision for horns that carry "ARAI Certified" at the manufacturing stage. The noise pollution in Bengaluru has reached an epidemic stage and needs to be mitigated," said Rajkumar Dugar, a civic activist and founder of Citizen for Citizen.

Official data from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board's (KSPCB) noise monitoring stations shows that decibel values in homey neighbourhoods and silent zones of the city are continuously surpassing acceptable noise levels.

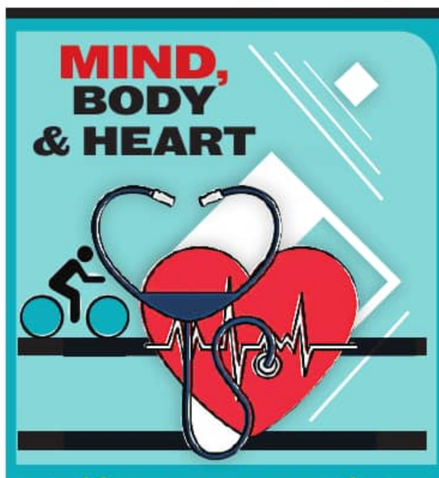
While the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has set permissible sound limits of 50dB for the day and 40dB during the night in silent zones, the average monthly nighttime noise levels near RVCE, a silent zone in the city, were more than 90 percent higher than the permissible limit in November. At NIMHANS, another silent zone in the city, the average nighttime noise level was found to be 31 percent higher.

Decibel values in residential areas were found to surpass the permissible limit by far.

Second National tree carving camp to begin at Lalbagh

Lalbagh Botanical Garden is all set to host the Second National Tree Carving Camp, showcasing the art of transforming fallen and uprooted trees into exquisite sculptures. The inauguration of the 16-day camp is scheduled for January 2 at 11 am, under the joint aegis of the Karnataka Chitrakala Academy and the Department of Horticulture.

The initiative builds on the success of the first camp held in 2018, when over 45 large, aesthetically designed tree sculptures were created from trees that had fallen naturally due to age, wind, or rain. These sculptures, now installed behind Lalbagh's Glass House, drew thousands of visitors and contributed to the country's first open-air wood museum, established at Lalbagh to celebrate the art of woodcraft. **BMB**



All you need to know about...

Wellness sips

Detox drinks can play a supportive role in a weight-loss journey by improving digestion and gently boosting metabolism. A well-functioning digestive system helps the body process nutrients efficiently, flush out toxins, and maintain energy levels. When paired with light, balanced meals, these simple drinks can help keep your system on track without following a very strict diet. Here are five easy detox drinks that may aid metabolism and digestion.

Vetiver water
Vetiver roots are known for their cooling properties. Boil vetiver roots in water, strain, and drink once a day. It may help digestion, calm nerves, support better sleep, and benefit skin and liver health.

Coriander water
Coriander seeds stimulate digestive enzymes and are rich in fibre, vitamins, and minerals. Boil one tablespoon of seeds in water, let it cool overnight, strain, and drink in the morning.

Cumin–Lemon water
Cumin supports digestion and metabolism. Soak cumin seeds overnight, boil, strain, and add half a lemon. Drink it warm on an empty stomach.

Cinnamon water with honey
Cinnamon may help reduce fat accumulation, while honey supports appetite control. Drink warm cinnamon water with honey, preferably at night.

Fenugreek water
Fenugreek is high in fibre and antioxidants. Soak seeds overnight, strain, and drink the water in the morning to support digestion and regularity. **–Femina**

The tune we can't shake off

Why catchy songs hijack your mind, disrupt focus and linger as stubborn earworms all day

You're sitting in a quiet room, reading a report, determined to concentrate. Then it starts — a fragment of a melody looping endlessly in your head. No speakers, no headphones, just a tune that refuses to leave. This common mental experience is known as an "earworm".

Research suggests that most people experience earworms regularly, especially those who listen to music often. A Finnish study found that more than 90% of people report getting earworms at least once a week, while around 60% experience them daily. These involuntary musical thoughts can strike at random moments or when the mind is supposed to be clear and focused.

But why does the brain insist on replaying snippets of songs like Jingle Bells, Bohemian Rhapsody or Golden — and why are some people more affected than others?

What turns a song into an earworm?

A song is more likely to become an earworm if you have heard it frequently or recently. In a 2015 study, researchers played an unfamiliar song to participants either two times or six times. Over the next three days, participants were contacted at random intervals and asked whether the song was stuck in their head.

About one-third reported experiencing an earworm when contacted. Those who had heard the song six times were more likely to experience it, and earworms were most common the day after exposure. Repetition and recency, it seems, give songs an advantage in looping back into the mind.

What's happening in the brain?

Brain imaging studies show that listening to music and imagining music activate similar areas of the brain. Earworms fall into the category of musical imagery — they are not external sounds but internally generated experiences.

Interestingly, a part of the brain called the auditory association cortex appears to play a stronger role in musical imagery than the primary auditory cortex, which handles basic sound processing. This suggests earworms involve higher-level interpretation and memory, rather than simple sound replay.

Another clue comes from people with congenital amusia, a condition that affects musical perception. People with amusia often struggle to recognise melodies or detect when music is out of tune. Yet studies show they still experience earworms — just less frequently. This indicates that even limited musical processing is enough for the brain to generate internal music.

> **"Studies explain how repetition, memory, and imagery fuel earworms, why OCD sufferers struggle more, and stop them effectively during daily life**

Earworms and working memory

Earworms seem to lodge themselves in working memory — the system we use to temporarily hold and manipulate information. Working memory helps us remember phone numbers, follow conversations, or do mental arithmetic.

Australian researchers found that people performing tasks requiring working memory were less accurate when they had a song stuck in their head. The earworm effectively "crowds out" other information. The same researchers also discovered that familiar songs were more disruptive than unfamiliar ones, likely because well-known music is easier for the brain to replay automatically.

Do earworms have a purpose?

Although annoying when unwanted, most earworms are actually neutral or even pleasant experiences. Some researchers argue they may be a kind of mental "withdrawal symptom" from music. If someone regularly listens to music but is unable to do so, the brain may compensate by generating music internally.

British research also suggests that the songs people experience as earworms often reflect why they listen to music in the first place. For example, people who use music to energise themselves tend to experience upbeat, motivating earworms.

What about people with OCD?

For individuals with obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), earworms can be more distressing. Because OCD involves intrusive thoughts, earworms may feel like just another unwanted mental repetition.

Research is mixed on whether people with OCD experience earworms more frequently. Some studies suggest they do not have more earworms than others, but are more disturbed by them. Other studies find higher frequency, though this may reflect increased awareness rather than actual occurrence.

Experts suggest that earworms in OCD are best addressed within broader therapeutic approaches, such as exposure and response prevention, which focuses on reducing distress reactions to intrusive thoughts rather than eliminating the thoughts themselves.

How can you get rid of an earworm?

One surprisingly effective technique may be chewing gum. British researchers suggest this works because working memory relies partly on the "inner voice", which involves subtle muscle movements in the throat. Chewing gum engages these muscles, disrupting the loop just enough to stop the earworm.

Listening to other music can also help, as earworms are less likely while actively hearing sound. However, this may simply replace one tune with another. Contrary to popular belief, listening to the entire song does not reliably eliminate earworms. In fact, research shows it may increase the likelihood of the song getting stuck again.

If nothing else, earworms are a reminder of how deeply music is embedded in the human brain — persistent, powerful, and sometimes impossible to silence.

By Timothy Byron, University of Wollongong, The Conversation – PTI

MIRRORLIGHTS

Frailty and depression together triple dementia risk in older adults, study finds

Older adults who are physically frail and suffer from depression face a substantially higher risk of developing dementia, with the combined effect accounting for nearly 17 per cent of overall dementia risk, according to a new study.

The research, published in General Psychiatry, shows that while frailty and depression individually raise the likelihood of dementia, having both conditions together dramatically amplifies the danger.

Older people with both frailty and depression were found to be more than three times as likely to develop dementia compared with those who were physically robust and mentally healthy.

The study was conducted by researchers from Zhejiang University School of Medicine in China, who analysed data from over 200,000 participants in the US and the UK, including those from the UK Biobank. Participants were followed for up to 13 years, during which 9,088 individuals were diagnosed with dementia.

The findings revealed that frail participants were more likely to be women, have higher body weight, multiple long-term health conditions, and lower levels of education. Frailty alone was associated with a 2.5-fold increase in dementia risk. Similarly, participants with depression had nearly a 60 per cent higher risk of being diagnosed with dementia compared to those without depression.

However, the highest risk was observed among individuals who had both conditions. Researchers identified a significant interaction between physical frailty and depression, with 17.1 percent of dementia cases attributed to their combined effects.

The team highlighted that lower levels of frailty may partially offset the cognitive burden of depression, and vice versa. Routine frailty, depression screening could reduce dementia risk. **–BMB**

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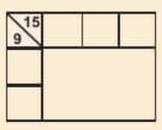
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.

	15	12		29	10		16	28	
7			16			17			4
17			6 19			14			
	14				4		12 28		
		18 12				13 5			
	4 17			7				18	
23					17				
11			15	3		10			16
	12						9		
		7					17		

Quick

1		2			3	■	4		5		6	
	■		■	■		■		■		■		■
7				■	8							
	■		■	■		■		■		■		■
	■	9		10				11	■	12		13
	■		■		■	■	■		■			
14							15					
	■		■		■	■	■		■		■	
16	17		■	18	19		20					
■		■	21	■		■		■	■		■	
22								■	23			
■		■		■		■		■	■		■	
24						■	25					

ACROSS

1 Quarrels (6)
4 Lack of enthusiasm (6)
7 Let __ __ : tell? (2,2)
8 Reproaches for wrongdoing, scolds (8)
9 Very much agape with amazement (3,4)
12 Internet addresses (3)
14 Karnataka lake home to a bird sanctuary (6)
15 Place of work (6)
16 Hither's partner (3)
18 Mumbai's infamous slum (7)
22 Chest muscle (8)
23 Misfortunes (4)
24 Neutered (6)
25 Deep gorge–Grand National for one? (6)

DOWN

1 Remaining faithful to; acting upon the promise or word given (7,2)
2 Continue ceaselessly or perpetually? (2,2,3,2)
3 Fry lightly in hot oil (5)
4 Move without hurry (5)
5 Number one personality (4)
6 Required to answer to charges in court (3,2)
10 Survived (5)
11 Capital city of Bulgaria (5)
12 In the beginning? (9)
13 Author of Treasure Island (9)
17 __ __ on : in a superior position to (3,2)
19 Chartered (5)
20 A remnant or a fragment (5)
21 Remain behind (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS P

IBR MHPPRLRCDR QRIVRRC NJRLNWR ORZOGR NCM NDBHRJHCW ORZOGR HK IBRHL ORLDROIHZC ZP NCM LRKOZCKR IZ PNHGSLR.

Line maro

Hey, is your name Sunshine? Because 'you're in my soul today'

Mindchow

Life's splendour forever lies in wait about each one of us in all its fullness, but veiled from view, deep down, invisible, far off. It is there, though, not hostile, not reluctant, not deaf. If you summon it by the right word, by its right name, it will come.

Joke of the day

You've got to think lucky; if you fall into a mud hole, check your back pocket – you might have caught a fish

Loop

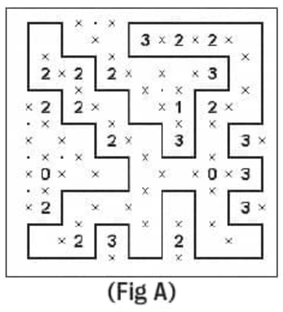
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

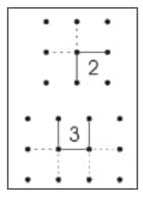
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

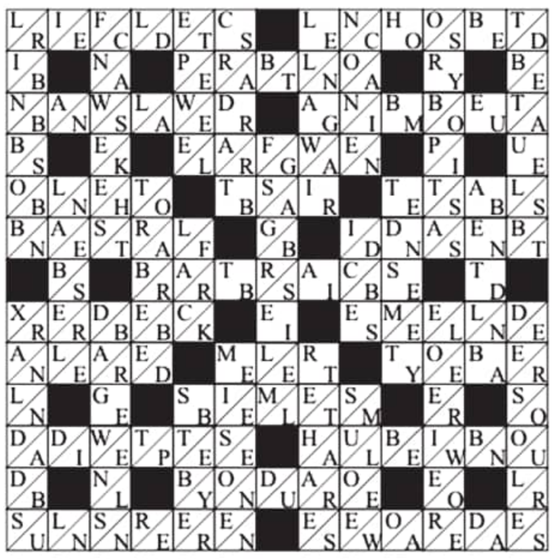


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6 O				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

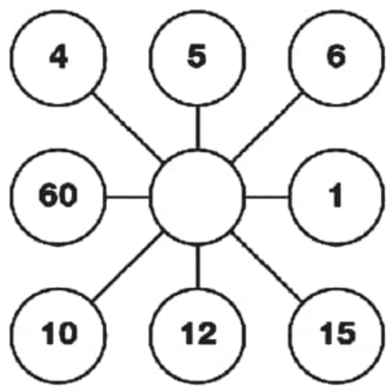
1 Scram; 6 Canoe; 7 Sweat; 8 At ire; 9 Refix

DOWN

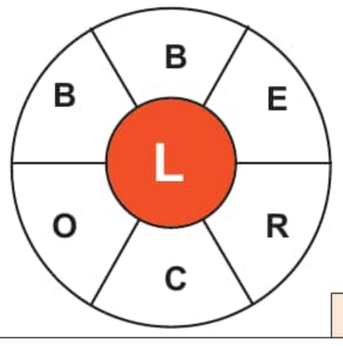
1 If mot; 2 I a car; 3 Waxer; 4 Cates; 5 Ernes

Mensapuzzle

Which number links all these?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

05 Average; **06** Good; **08** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	1		6		7		9	
		5				2		
7		8		4		3		1
1			5	8	9			4
8			1	7	2			6
9		2		5		6		3
		1				5		
	5		3		1		2	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

□□□□□□□ = 6

3 4 8 9

Medium

□□□□□□□ = 4

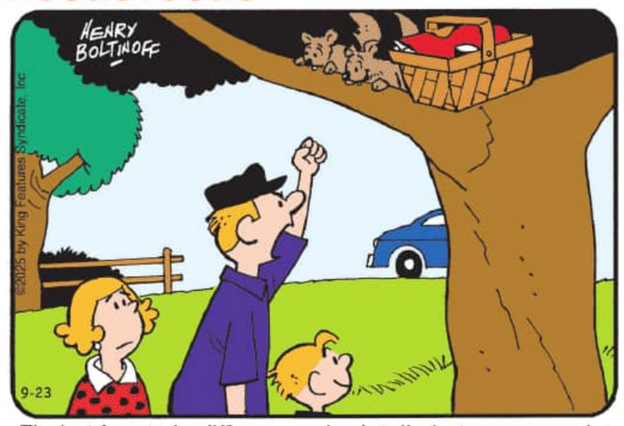
6 5 4 2

Hard

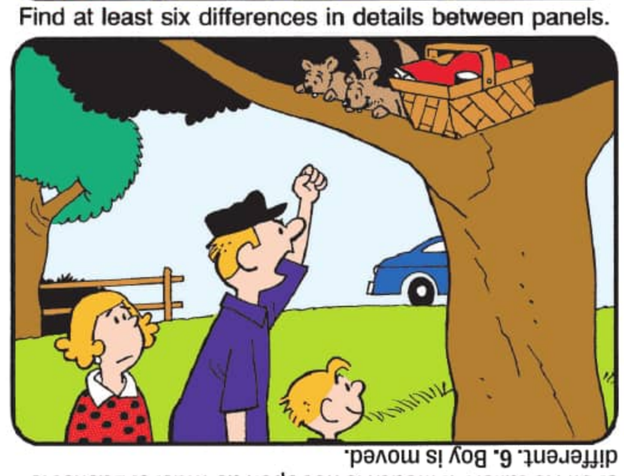
□□□□□□□ = 9

2 3 4 6

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



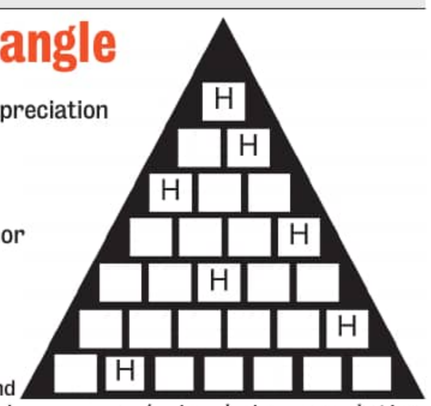
Differences: 1. Car wheel is moved. 2. Fence is taller. 3. Girl is taller. 4. Mouth is not open as wide. 5. Basket is different. 6. Boy is moved.

Riddler

While driving his car a man slams on the brakes when he sees, in the middle of the street, a diamond studded door, a gold door and a silver door. Which door does he open first?

Alpha triangle

1 8th letter
2 Expression of appreciation
3 Owns
4 Ready money
5 Hurts
6 Look for
7 Oliver Twist author ____Dickens



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

HERE'S A LETTER FROM YER KING!
WONDERFUL! IT MUST BE AN ANSWER TO MINE!
I ASKED HIM TO SEND A SHIP FOR ME!
WELL?
HIS NAVY IS BUSY FISHING FOR MACKEREL!
4-3
popeye.com

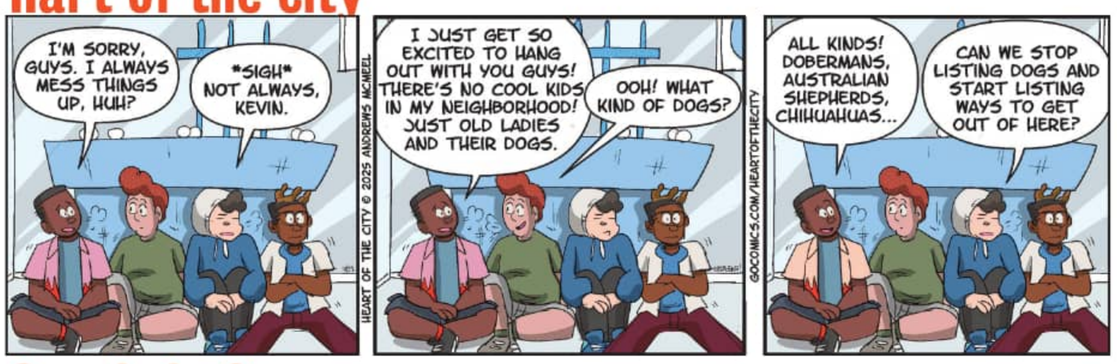
Bizarrotrip

You want to visit 1930 just to sit in your great-grandpa's recliner?
BACK to the FURNITURE
Dist. by King Features
Wayno & Piraro 9-23-25
BIZARRO.COM

Diamond Lil

HEY, SURLI, HOW DO I GET A WOMAN'S MOTOR RUNNING?
OK, HERE'S WHAT I FOUND...
REPLACE HER PLUGS AND POINTS
©2025 creators.com 9/23
www.creators.com

Hart of the city


I'M SORRY, GUYS. I ALWAYS MESS THINGS UP, HUH?
SIGH NOT ALWAYS, KEVIN.
I JUST GET SO EXCITED TO HANG OUT WITH YOU GUYS! THERE'S NO COOL KIDS IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD! JUST OLD LADIES AND THEIR DOGS.
OOH! WHAT KIND OF DOGS?
ALL KINDS! DOBERMANS, AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERDS, CHIHUAHUAS...
CAN WE STOP LISTING DOGS AND START LISTING WAYS TO GET OUT OF HERE?
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

WHAT ARE YOU ORDERING, DAD?
I'M TRYING TO GET A SPECIAL REPLACEMENT BATTERY FOR OUR UNIVERSAL REMOTE...
APPARENTLY THOSE THINGS ARE SCARCER THAN HENS' EGGS!
9-23
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BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your innate patience and attention to detail will be your greatest assets this year. Focus on building secure, stable foundations in your career and relationships. A significant financial opportunity will arise, requiring careful planning and diligent effort. Nurture your connections; they provide essential support and comfort throughout this fruitful cycle.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

Powerful portals are opening now; embrace a fresh start with determination. Ignore minor distractions and focus on your great ambition. Lay strong foundations for a year of celebration and fortune.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

Letting go of past nostalgia allows you to fully engage in the present moment. Tranquillity and happiness are found in your now. Focus on creating deep synergy today for a successful year ahead. Be fully present.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

The New Year encourages you to look past old memories and fully commit to your present. Focus on your mind's eye for clarity and peace. Synergy is your theme today, bringing happiness and cohesiveness.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

Stand strong as forward momentum leads you to sunny, brighter shores. Uphold firm boundaries as you acclimate to your radiant new light. You decide who gains access to your powerful energy this year. Hold your ground with grace.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

It's a wonderful time for a courageous and joyful fresh start. Listen to your heart's deepest, gentlest voice for guidance. Embrace new partnerships and collaborations now.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

Lead with your creative intuition; rules are meant to be broken with style. You are not stuck; you just need a new perspective. Your heart holds the powerful potential to turn challenges into gold. Play and have fun today.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Turn away from worries and embrace the warm sun of a new beginning. Seek quiet time to find your wisest, guiding voice within. True purpose is found in service, not just outer allure. Return to tasks with a clearer heart.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

Every word you speak casts a powerful spell on your year ahead. Banish what no longer serves you with strength and resolve. It is time to renew your passion and deeply fall in love with your life. Get off the treadmill.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

This is your time for deep soul replenishment and cleareyed assessment. Be willing to take a chance and bring your soul vision to life. Disengage from draining energy; give your all only to what truly nurtures you.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

You are successfully leaving past heartache behind to start anew. Slow down today to deliberately choose your next focus and ships. This year calls for precise, focused action, not excess resilience. Reassess and re-evaluate with wisdom.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

Don't let doubt overshadow your big creative potential today. Rest your swords; a year of work doesn't happen in a day. You have amazing inner strength and clever ways to manage change. Tap into your inner zen power.

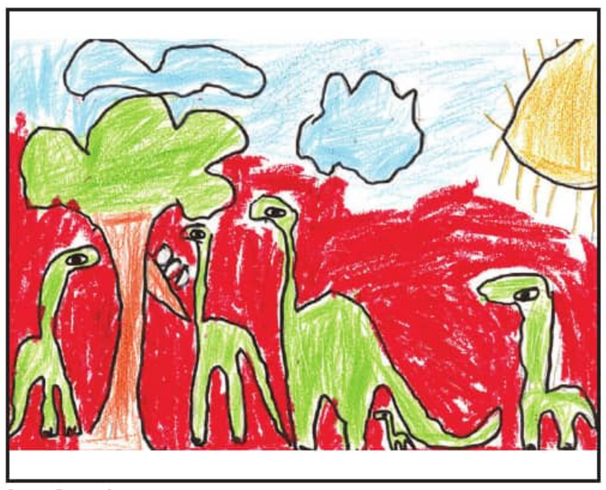
Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

You have evolved into a true visionary; set your sights high and sail your ships. Choose to engage with kindness and patience towards yourself. Maintain a long-term outlook. Ignore the haters.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Roshan, Bengaluru



Arav, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

Rewrite as :
[(5^2/2) * (5^9/2) / (5^8/2)]^(√2)
(5^3/2)^(√2)
5^6 = 15625

STRIKE OUT

R	I	F	L	E	S		E	C	H	O	E	D		
I		A		P	A	B	L	O		R		E		
B	A	W	L	E	D		G	I	B	B	E	T		
B		K		E	A	G	A	N		I		E		
O	L	E	O		T	A	R		E	T	A	S		
N	A	S	A	L		B	I	N	S	E	T			
	B		R	A	T	R	A	C	E		T			
X	E	B	E	C		I		E	M	E	N	D		
A	L	A	D		M	E	T		Y	E	A	R		
A	D	E	P	T	S		A	L	B	I	N	O		
N		G		S	E	L	E	S		R		O		
T	A	W	S		E		T		A		N			
O	C	E	A	N										
M	A	R	C	S										

FAST FIVE

F	I	X	E	R
I		R	A	T
T	A	W	S	E
O	C	E	A	N
M	A	R	C	S

RIDDLER His car door

BULL'S EYE

blob, bole, CLOBBER
cobble, COBBLER, lobe, lore, role

QUICK

S	P	A	Y	E	D		C	A	N	Y	O	N		
	U		A		E		I		L		L	O		
P	E	C	T	O	R	A	L		I	L	S	N		
	N		S		I		E		A			E		
Y	O	N		D	H	A	R	A	V	I				
B		O		E		I			T		V			
G	U	D	A	V	I		O	F	F	I	C	E		
N		N		I		O		O		N		T		
I	A	L	L	E	Y	E	S		I		P	S		
D		N		T		L		M		U				
I	N	O	N		U	P	B	R	A	I	D	S		
B		O		A		M		D		A				
A	R	G	U	E	S		A	P	A	T	H	Y		

QUOTE UNCODE

The difference between average people and achieving people is their perception of and response to failure.

60. Multiply the figures at the opposite ends of the central circle to give the same answer.

MENSA PUZZLE

SUDOKU

2	1	4	6	3	7	8	9	5
3	6	5	9	1	8	2	4	7
7	9	8	2	4	5	3	6	1
1	2	6	5	8	9	7	3	4
5	7	9	4	6	3	1	8	2
8	4	3	1	7	2	9	5	6
9	8	2	7	5	4	6	1	3
4	3	1	8	2	6	5	7	9
6	5	7	3	9	1	4	2	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE

H, Ah, Has,
Cash, Aches,
Search,
Charles.

GO FIGURE

3 + 8 + 4 − 9 = 6
2 × 5 + 6 \ 4 = 4
Hard
6 + 2 − 3 + 4 = 9
Easy

LOOP

KAKURO

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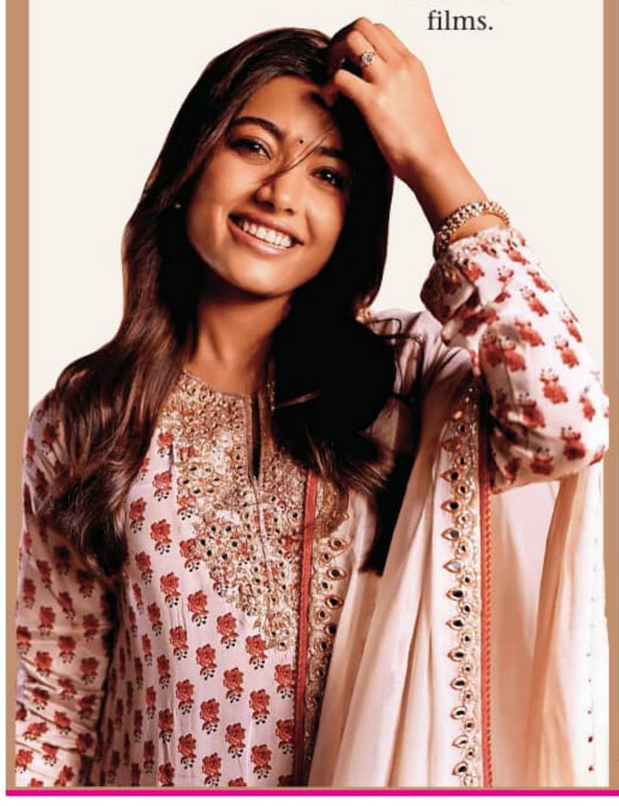
Some tips & some musings

Rashmika celebrates industry milestone

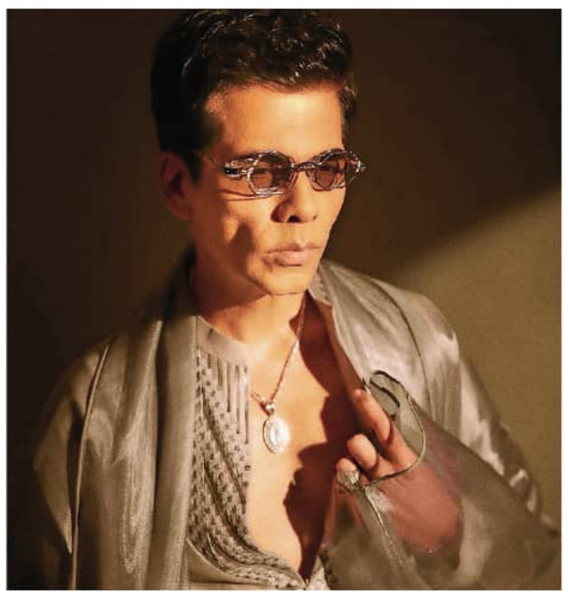
Rashmika Mandanna celebrated nine incredible years in the film industry, marking a major career milestone. She shared a touching message thanking her fans. The actress expressed her gratitude for their unwavering affection, understanding and support over the years.

Emotional note

Taking to her Instagram Stories, Rashmika shared a note that read, "9 yearsss!! I still can't fully wrap my head around that. 26 films later, what I'm most proud of isn't just the work — it's the family I've found along the way. All the love, the patience, the faith, the little moments, the big moments — everything from these nine years makes my heart feel so full; full of joy, full of pride, full of gratitude. Today, reading your posts, your messages, your tweets, genuinely made my heart smile. It made me feel calm, content and sooo loved. Thank you for standing by me through every phase, every high, every doubt and every learning." She added, "Honestly, I still don't know how I survived these nine years. But I do know one thing — I survived because of you. Thank you for accepting me the way I am. Thank you for loving me so generously. Thank you for supporting me even when I was still figuring myself out. What we share today feels much bigger than just an actor and the people who watch her films.



Karan Johar on grace



2025 has not been an easy one for Karan Johar and his production house. Some of the films released under the banner failed to perform well at the box office.

The recent release Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri, starring Kartik Aaryan and Ananya Panday, received mixed reviews, as did several other films released by the production house this year.

Karan shared a long note on Instagram. He wrote, "Grace… Is this now an alien phenomenon? Have we, as a race, completely lost our ability to be good old-fashioned graceful?" He also questioned why people are unable to respond properly to messages or emails. He added, "Are we not able to celebrate other people's successes, and can we stop celebrating their failures?"

On social media behaviour

Karan also spoke about how social media has become a space for negativity. He said, "Can we stop making social media a dumping ground for our own failings, shortcomings or inner darkness?" He questioned why people take their bad moods online. He further said, "Are we able to practise what we preach… gyaan givers need to also be gyaan executors." He urged people to look within rather than judge others. He added a strong line that read, "You are not the moral police… Look within, and you will have to deal with your own questionable morality."

Self-love and hope

Karan Johar also stressed the importance of self-acceptance. He wrote, "Lastly, do you have the grace to be YOU! With your flaws, rough edges and indecisions?" He encouraged people to embrace who they are rather than hide from it.

Advice for young girls

Malaika Arora recently opened up about her marriage and relationships. The actress revealed that she got married at a very young age and added that women should experience life before tying the knot. The Chaiyya Chaiyya girl of Bollywood also shared important advice for young girls. Here's what she had to say.

In an interview with India Today, Malaika Arora was asked what advice she would give her younger self. She said, "Please don't make the mistake of getting married so young. Yes, beautiful things have happened, the best being that I had my child early. But live and experience life a bit. Then take the call to settle down. Be financially and emotionally independent before you actually settle down."

In the same interview, the actress shared that although her marriage and relationships did not work out, she still believes in love and marriage as an institution, adding, "It doesn't mean it's meant for me." Malaika Arora and Arbaaz Khan got married in 1998 after falling in love in the early 1990s.

However, things did not go as planned, leading to their separation and eventual divorce. The couple shares a son, Arhaan Khan, and continues to co-parent him. Following her divorce, the actress reportedly dated Arjun Kapoor. However, their relationship did not last long and eventually ended. Now, if reports are to be believed, the actress is dating Harsh Mehta. Meanwhile, Arbaaz Khan is married to Sshura Khan, and the couple now has a child.

Work projects

The actress was last seen in a special number, Poison Baby, om Thamma, starring Ayushmann Khurrana, Rashmika Mandanna, Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Paresh Rawal. The film was released in theatres on November 21, 2025. Apart from this, she is currently serving as a judge on the show India's Got Talent.

—ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Lyrical video released

The lyrical video Lifeuu Yako Khali Khali Status Postumaadalaa from the forthcoming Kannada film Seat Edge was officially released on December 29. Dedicated to vloggers, the song is written by Nagarjuna Sharma, sung by Siddharth Belamannu and composed by Akash Parva. Chetan Shetty, who previously worked as an associate on Kannada films Chemistry of Kariyappa and Critical Keerthanegalu, debuts as an independent director in Sandalwood with this film.

According to Shetty, Seat Edge is a suspense thriller. "I am happy that the video has received more than four lakh views so far. The film revolves around YouTubers and vloggers who go to extreme lengths to gain views and popularity on social media," he said.

The film was shot over 45 days across Bengaluru, Mysuru, Shivamogga and Kudremukh. It features Siddu Moolimani, Ravishka Shetty, Raghu Ramanakoppa, Girish Shivanna, Mimicry Gopi, Lakshmi Siddaiah, Kiran Nayakre, Puneeth Babu and others.

Father ready for release

The much-awaited multilingual film Father is set to release soon. Its theme video was unveiled on Tuesday, with producer R Chandru's father, Ramanna, attending as the chief guest. Since the film explores the bond between a father and son, Chandru felt it was fitting to have his father inaugurate the event. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had inaugurated RC Studios in January 2024, where Chandru announced plans to bankroll five films, including Father. Veteran actor Prakash Raj essays the role of the father, while Darling Krishna plays the son. The film also stars Amrutha Iyengar, Nagabhushana NS and Avinash.

Although Chandru has directed 13 films, including the big-budget Kabzaa, he has entrusted the direction of Father to Raj Mohan. The film reportedly blends emotion, sentiment, bonding and love to engage audiences. According to sources, the story centres on a father protecting his son while the latter attempts to kill him. Prakash Raj and Darling Krishna are said to have delivered powerful performances.

Yami shares theatre days anecdote

Bollywood actress Yami Gautam, who is fresh off the success of her recent film 'Haq', has recollected an incident from her early days in theatre when she went horribly wrong with the lines yet made a solid impact.

The actress spoke with IANS during the promotions of 'Haq', and shared how she delivered a line in a very unusual way that left the room in splits.

She told IANS, "I remember there was a new theater teacher at school, and theater was just being introduced. There was a line that I still remember, 'Keep still, you little devil, or I will slit your throat'. Now there were 35 of us, the students, and everyone had to say their lines in their own way, and then it would be your turn again. I said it in such a weird way once that everyone burst out laughing. I was being very serious on my part. She was like, 'You sounded like a street, like a pocket man'. I said, 'I don't know what else to do, but at least you remember my lines. I gave it a shot'".

She also spoke about how a director streamlines the story, and keeps the narrative on track. She feels actors are the means to achieve the vision of the director.

–IANS